

Unique

PROPERTY & LIFESTYLE

Luxury



Feature Property - Linlithgow • The Waternest • La Dolce Vita in Riviera
Fleye - The Eye of Innovation • Grande Provence Wine Estate • Jet Set on the Lake
Luxury Lodges of New Zealand • Fashion - From Top International Designers

UNIQUE ESTATES AUSTRALIA : VOLUME NINE



Welcome to Volume 9 of Unique Luxury Magazine - our most extensive to date with a brand new look. In this issue we showcase some stunning new properties starting with our feature property Linlithgow - a magnificent contemporary masterpiece in Toorak. This amazing Steve Jolson designed three level home has extensive living areas and an indoor lap pool. Its scale and attention to detail are second-to-none. We also take you around the world with our ever expanding portfolio of Unique Escapes.

Join us as we travel to some extraordinary luxury lodges from New Zealand and South Africa. Enjoy the glamour at the most exclusive car event in the world, the Concorso d'Eleganza held on the shores of Lake Como in northern Italy. Come and celebrate a 'Tribute to Carlo Riva' on the breathtaking harbour of Santa Margherita. We return to New Zealand in a McLaren 650s Spider to trace the early years of McLaren's eponymous founder, Bruce. Learn all about the Waternest 100 and why after many years of research this idea is finally a reality. We discover a whole new way of seeing with Danish eyewear company Fleye and as always we showcase the best in high fashion from top international designers.

Thanks for joining us and we hope you really enjoy browsing through our range of Unique luxury homes. For any enquiries please contact our office.

Nicolette van Wijngaarden
Managing Director

UNIQUE ESTATES
www.uniqueestates.com.au
info@uniqueestates.com.au

Unique Estates Sydney
6/16 Hickson Road
Walsh Bay
Sydney NSW 2000

Unique Estates Melbourne
Suite 1, Level 27
101 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Unique Estates Byron Bay
Suite 1, 13 Lawson Street
Byron Bay NSW 2481

Unique Estates Hong Kong
Level 19, Two International Finance Centre,
8 Finance Street Central
Hong Kong

Freecall 1300 911 720
+61 2 9247 8530

To arrange an inspection of any of the properties included for sale or to book a holiday home please call Unique Estates Australia on 1300 911 720 or email info@uniqueestates.com.au

Contributors



Cars & Yachts
James Nicholls



Travel
Bronwen Gora



Fashion & Design
Tracey Porter

Contents



8



60



90



144



162



188

4

FEATURE PROPERTY
Linlithgow
Magnificent contemporary masterpiece

8

THE WATERNEST
Discover a totally ecological floating habitat

32

FASHION - MEN
The latest on the catwalk from the world's top designers

60

GRANDE PROVENCE
Grande Provence Wine Estate, South Africa

76

McLAREN
On the trail of Bruce McLaren

90

LA DOLCE VITA
A tribute to Carlo Riva

110

FASHION - WOMEN
The latest on the catwalk from the world's top designers

144

JET SET ON THE LAKE
The Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este

152

UNIQUE LAND
Land available from around Australia

162

FLEYE
The award winning eyewear brand offering glass wearers a whole new way of seeing the world

168

UNIQUE ESCAPES
Unique Estates represents over 100 holiday properties and special event venues world wide

188

LUXURY LODGES
The luxury lodge is to New Zealand what the five star safari camp has become to South Africa

220

PROPERTY LISTINGS INDEX

Publisher

Unique Estates Australia Pty Ltd
Suite 1/13 Lawson Street
Byron Bay NSW 2481
P +61 2 6680 9888

Editorial enquiries

Nicolette van Wijngaarden
nicolette@uniqueestates.com.au
P +61 2 6680 9888
P +61 4 1114 4877

Advertising enquiries

Barton Slattery
barton@uniqueestates.com.au
P +61 2 6680 9888
P +61 4 1281 6038

Cover photo:

Linlithgow, Toorak

Photographer:

Saul Goodwin



The image shows a futuristic floating habitat on a calm lake. The structure is semi-circular with a blue, grid-patterned dome roof and a light-colored wooden frame. A wooden walkway leads to the structure. In the background, there is a line of trees and a green hill under a blue sky with clouds.

The Waternest

Join Unique Estates for a tour of the Waternest 100 - an eco-friendly floating habitat, designed by Giancarlo Zema for EcoFloLife





The idea of a totally ecological floating habitat is rather appealing in this day and age of city grime, industrial waste, pollution, concrete towers and seemingly endless urban sprawl. It is as though the world predicted by Charlie Chaplin in his master oeuvre 'Modern Times' of 1936 (itself an homage to Fritz Lang's now lost 1927 expressionist view of dystopia, 'Metropolis'), or that of another Charles, Dickens in his Victorian novels such as 'Hard Times' published in 1854, really has come to pass. And yet of course there are many who have now realised that before it is too late that there is an alternative, another and better way to live our lives.

Whilst the global warming debate rages on, we have all come to appreciate that whatever the cause, that our planet cannot simply be utilised as a strip mine, that we cannot continue to take and take without putting back. We have come to understand that we have to work in harmony with nature if we are not all to lead lives that directly resemble the images of the Brazilian social documentary photojournalist Sebastiao Salgado. Even popular stories such as James Cameron's 2009 film, 'Avatar' now warn us of the dangers of opening Pandora's Box.

The renowned Italian architect Giancarlo Zema of the Giancarlo Zema Design Group founded in 2001 and based in Rome specialises in semi-submerged architectural structures, marine parks, floating habitats and yacht design. Zema is a man whose whole working life is defined by water and the possibility of returning to the blue habitat from which man originally came and which covers over two-thirds of the globe. Zema's vision has been variously described by the Sunday Times in 2004 as, "design in the brave new water world", whilst in 2005 the New York Times referred to the Group's work as, "the new design of aquatic life".





Giancarlo Zema and his colleagues are striving to turn the world on its head and with UK company EcoFloLife have designed and created what is the incredibly simple but important idea of an eco-friendly floating housing unit called the WaterNest 100. After many years of research the idea of the WaterNest 100 is a reality. This reality takes the form of an all encompassing 100 sqm circular residential unit, 12 m in diameter and 4 m high. It is made entirely of recycled glued laminated timber upon a recycled aluminium hull drawing on Zema's expertise in boat design. The WaterNest 100 is designed to be able to float on any calm water area, including the sea, as well as rivers, lakes, bays and atolls in any temperate climate. Designed and manufactured in a pod system it can easily be transported and moved to an alternative spot should you wish to take it with you. Using materials and sustainable production systems means that as much as 98% of the unit is recyclable and it is classified as a low-consumption residential habitat due to its sophisticated internal natural micro-ventilation and air conditioning systems.

In keeping with the idea of the nest, its egg like design makes it look natural rather than something created by the hand of man, and it enhances the feel of living on and over the water with large windows and balconies blurring the line between inside and outside. Bathroom and kitchen skylights sit on the roof alongside sufficient solar panels to provide energy needs for the interior which comprises a living area, dining room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom, though this layout can be configured according to one's requirements. The interior of the WaterNest 100 contains a high level of finish and quality fixtures and all are designed using recycled and recyclable materials. At the same time these materials provide a comfortable and contemporary style provided by natural and warm wood finishes. The feeling of being at one with nature is continuously enhanced by the ambience and style created by the architect's vision.

Over a coffee on the Corso Como in Milan talking with Sara Sky Schutte, one of the owners of EcoFloLife, I was impressed by the obvious commitment to creating a sustainable habitat for the future. This young American woman was not simply paying lip service to the ecological benefits of the WaterNest which can be configured as

domestic dwelling, office cum studio, exhibition or retail space or even a lounge bar, café or small restaurant. EcoFloLife's commitment to the cause is evident and so too is that of the architect himself, with Zema being a partner in the project as his brain child is water-born. Whilst it is early days, the interest in the WaterNest 100, only launched in the second quarter of 2015 has been considerable. With a cost well under a million US dollars we are not talking of a dwelling that is obtainable only by the seriously wealthy. The emphasis throughout, as well as being ecologically sound and environmentally friendly is on luxury and comfort; no spartan dwelling this, despite all the good intentions!

What we experience with the WaterNest is a dwelling that will satisfy a desire to live comfortably and well, and at the same time satisfy the need not to destroy the world which we inhabit. The endeavour initiated with Giancarlo Zema's creativity and designs and brought to fruition by EcoFloLife is to be applauded. It is not some hare-brained scheme of fantasy living and wishful thinking but a well thought out proposition that makes sense financially and ecologically. There are of course still hurdles to be cleared. At this stage the WaterNest is currently designed to be used only in warmer climes but it is feasible that it could ultimately be utilised in places such as Scandinavia or New Zealand where it would be well received in both areas where there is plenty of appropriate water. Planning permission and all local regulations will vary of course from country to country but EcoFloLife have already spoken with governments and local authorities and the purchase price of the WaterNest includes them taking care of all the red tape on one's behalf.

Is it a boat or is it a house? I do not know, but it is certainly far removed from the traditional idea of a house boat. It is bespoke and beautiful. As babies we are born from water and it seems that this floating experience is a wonderful way to live; a return to the womb, to the water nest from whence we came. Thank you to Zema's 'innovative semi-submerged architecture studio' for showing us one way forward. For more information please contact Nicolette van Wijngaarden at Unique Estates Australia on +61 411 144 877 or email nicolette@uniqueestates.com.au